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11 Attorneys for Representative Plaintiffs
12 and the Plaintiff Class

13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

14 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

15 ANITA C. RAGANO, TERI
16 MCDONALD individually, and on
17 behalf of all others similarly situated,

18 Plaintiffs,

19 vs.

20 MICHAELS STORES, INC. and
21 DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

22 Defendants

23 Defendants.

24) **Case No. CV-11-3908 CRB**

25) **CLASS ACTION**

26) **ORDER GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL OF
27) CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND
28) JUDGMENT OF DISMISSAL WITH
PREJUDICE**

29) **Date: April 12, 2013**

30) **Time: 10:00 a.m.**

31) **Dept.: Courtroom 6 - 17th Floor**

32) **Judge: Honorable Charles Breyer**

33
34 This matter, having come before the Court on April 12, 2013, for a hearing on plaintiffs
35 Anita Ragano's and Teri McDonald's ("Plaintiffs") Motion for an Order: (1) Granting Final
36 Approval of Class Action Settlement Agreement; (2) Awarding Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class
37 Counsel; (3) Approving Enhancement Award to the Class Representative; and (4) Awarding
38 Reimbursement for Claims Administration Fees and Costs, the Court having considered all papers
39 filed and proceedings had herein and otherwise being fully informed and good cause appearing
40 therefore, it is hereby

41 **ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:**

42 28

1 1. All terms used herein shall have the same meaning as defined in the Michaels Stores,
 2 Inc. "Wage and Hour" Class Action Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims ("Settlement")
 3 submitted to the Court on October 12, 2012 (Docket No. 52), unless otherwise noted herein.

4 2. Consistent with the definitions provided in the Settlement, the term "Plaintiff Class"
 5 refers to all current and former non-exempt Michaels employees working at any Michaels store in
 6 California from the date four years prior to the commencement of the lawsuit, July 5, 2007, until the
 7 date of preliminary approval of the settlement. The Plaintiff Class also includes those current and
 8 former non-exempt Michaels' employees working at the "MoskateL's" store from the date four years
 9 prior to the commencement of the lawsuit, July 5, 2007, until the date of preliminary approval of the
 10 settlement. The term "Settlement Class" refers to all members of the Plaintiff Class who do not
 11 request exclusion from the Settlement.

12 3. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and over all parties to
 13 this action, including all Settlement Class members.

14 4. In accordance with the Settlement and this Court's Preliminary Approval Order
 15 (Docket No. 54), distribution of the Class Notice Package directed to the Plaintiff Class members has
 16 been completed, including the individual notice to all Plaintiff Class members who could be
 17 identified through reasonable effort. It is hereby determined that the notice to Plaintiff Class
 18 members, as disseminated thereto in accordance with the provisions of the Preliminary Approval
 19 Order, was the best notice practicable under the circumstances. Due and adequate notice of the
 20 pendency of this action and of this Settlement has been provided to the Plaintiff Class, and this Court
 21 hereby finds that the notice program described in the Preliminary Approval Order and completed by
 22 the Settlement Administrator complied fully with the requirements of due process, the Federal Rules
 23 of Civil Procedure, and all other applicable laws.

24 5. The Court hereby approves the settlement terms set forth in the Settlement and finds
 25 that the Settlement is, in all respects, fair, adequate and reasonable, and further finds that Plaintiffs
 26 have satisfied the standards and applicable requirements for final approval of this class action
 27 settlement under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Court also finds that the

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1 Plaintiff Class is properly certified as a class for settlement purposes only. The parties to the
 2 Settlement are hereby directed to effectuate the Settlement according to its terms.

3 6. All Settlement Class members are bound by this Final Approval Order and Judgment
 4 and by the Settlement embodied therein, including the releases provided for in the Settlement and
 5 this Final Approval Order and Judgment. As of the Effective Date of Settlement, by operation of the
 6 entry of this Final Approval Order and Judgment, each member of the Settlement Class, including
 7 Plaintiffs, shall be deemed to have fully released, waived, relinquished and discharged, to the fullest
 8 extent permitted by law, all Released Claims that he or she may have against the Releasees.

9 7. “Releasees” means Defendant and Defendant’s present and former parent companies,
 10 subsidiaries, and related and affiliated entities, as well as their respective shareholders, employees,
 11 officers, directors, attorneys, insurers, successors, and assigns.

12 8. “Released Claims” means any and all individual and class claims, debts, liabilities,
 13 demands, obligations, penalties, guarantees, costs, expenses, attorneys’ fees, damages, action or
 14 causes of action of whatever kind or nature, whether known or unknown, contingent or accrued, that
 15 were actually alleged in the Complaint, as well as any wage and hour claims could have been
 16 brought based on the factual allegations contained in the Complaint, including, but not limited to any
 17 claims under any California, Federal or local law for unpaid wages, unpaid commissions, unpaid
 18 overtime, unpaid minimum wage, failure to pay for all hours worked, “off-the-clock” work, record-
 19 keeping violations, paycheck or wage statement violations, meal period and rest period violations,
 20 failure to properly and timely pay wages, including final wages upon termination, “waiting time”
 21 penalties, PAGA penalties, any other penalties, and any claims under the California business &
 22 Professions Code, which arose between July 5, 2007 and the Effective Date, inclusive. The
 23 Settlement Class and Plaintiffs also expressly waive all rights and benefits afforded by section 1542
 24 of the California Civil Code, and do so understanding the significance of that waiver. Section 1542
 25 provides:

26 A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to
 27 exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him or her
 28 must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

1 9. Neither this Settlement nor this Final Approval Order and Judgment is an admission
 2 of liability, fault, or wrongdoing by Defendant, or any of the Releasees, nor a finding of the validity
 3 of any claims in the Action or any violation of law. Neither this Final Approval Order and Judgment,
 4 the Settlement, nor any document referred to herein, nor any action taken to carry out the Settlement
 5 is, may be construed as, or may be used as, an admission or concession by or against Defendant, or
 6 any of the Releasees, of any fault, wrongdoing, or liability whatsoever. Neither this Final Approval
 7 Order and Judgment, any term or provision of the Settlement, nor any of the negotiations or
 8 proceedings connected with it, shall be offered or received in evidence in any pending or future civil,
 9 criminal or administrative action or proceeding, other than such proceedings that may be necessary
 10 to consummate or enforce the Settlement; however, Defendant or any Releasee may use the
 11 Settlement and/or any related document, in any action that may be brought against them in order to
 12 support a defense or counterclaim based on principles of *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, release,
 13 good faith settlement, judgment bar or reduction, accord and satisfaction, or any other theory of
 14 claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim.

15 10. The Court hereby finds the Settlement Payments provided for under the Settlement to
 16 be fair and reasonable in light of all the circumstances. The Court, therefore, orders the calculations
 17 and the payments to be made and administered in accordance with the terms of the Settlement.

18 11. The Court hereby confirms Scott Cole & Associates, APC as Class Counsel in this
 19 action.

20 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:**

21 12. The Court hereby finds that Class Counsel have adequately represented the interests
 22 of the Plaintiff Class at all times in this action. An award of attorneys' fees in the amount of
 23 \$470,590.72¹ is hereby approved and awarded to Class Counsel, to be paid directly by Defendant, as
 24 provided for in the Settlement. The Court finds that the amount of this award is supported by both
 25 the application of the percentage fee and the lodestar-plus-multiplier methods for awarding

26
 27
 28 ¹ The attorney fee award is 25% of the Net Settlement, which was calculated as follows: \$2,000,000 (Gross
 Settlement) - \$95,100 (Claims Administration Fees) - \$7,500 (Enhancement Awards) - \$15,037.13 (litigation costs)
 = \$1,882,362.87.

1 reasonable attorneys' fees plus costs. The Court further finds that Class Counsel's hourly rates were
2 reasonable for the work that they performed.

3 13. In the course of this litigation, Class Counsel incurred costs totaling \$15,037.73 (as of
4 January 28, 2013) and will incur further costs in the future. Such costs are appropriate for
5 reimbursement in these types of cases. As such, the actual costs incurred by Class Counsel in this
6 litigation are appropriate for reimbursement and shall be paid pursuant to the Settlement.

7 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:**

8 14. The Court finds that Plaintiff Anita Ragano has contributed to the resolution of this
9 case and has fairly and adequately represented and protected the interests of the Plaintiff Class.

10 15. The Court finds the Enhancement Award to be fair and reasonable compensation
11 based upon the evidence presented regarding the services provided and the risks incurred by Plaintiff
12 in assisting Class Counsel in this matter. Representative Plaintiff Anita Ragano shall receive an
13 Enhancement Award in the amount of \$5,000, to be paid pursuant to the Settlement.

14 16. The Court finds that Plaintiff Teri McDonald has contributed to the resolution of this
15 case and has fairly and adequately represented and protected the interests of the Plaintiff Class.

16 17. The Court finds the Enhancement Award to be fair and reasonable compensation
17 based upon the evidence presented regarding the services provided and the risks incurred by Plaintiff
18 in assisting Class Counsel in this matter. Representative Plaintiff Teri McDonald shall receive an
19 Enhancement Award in the amount of \$2,500, to be paid pursuant to the Settlement.

20 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:**

21 18. The Court finds that the services provided by the Settlement Administrator, were for
22 the benefit of the Plaintiff Class, and the cost range of \$89,500.00 to \$95,100.00 is fair, reasonable,
23 and appropriate for reimbursement, pursuant to the terms of the Settlement. The Court approves
24 payment to Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC for administration fees, which includes all costs and
25 fees incurred to date, as well as estimated costs and fees involved in completing the administration of
26 the Settlement.

27 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:**

28

1 19. With the exception of the named class representatives, neither the Settlement
 2 Agreement, nor any matter contained therein, shall in any way release, impair, or otherwise affect:

3 (a) Any claim that any past or present Store Manager has, or may have, but only
 4 claims which arose during the limited time period that person served as a Store
 5 Manager and only as to such claims directly arising from and relating to his or
 6 her employment as a Store Manager; and

7 (b) Any claim under California Labor Code Section 203 that any past Store Manager
 8 has, but only for those Store Managers who were classified as exempt Store
 9 Managers at the time of conclusion of his or her employment by Michaels
 10 (regardless of whether correctly so classified), and only based on underlying
 11 wages allegedly earned and not paid while the person was employed as Store
 12 Manager.

13 All such claims encompassed by (a) and (b) are hereby expressly preserved, and shall
 14 not be affected by the Settlement Agreement and no party to the Settlement Agreement shall make a
 15 contrary assertion in any court at any time.

16 20. Without affecting the finality of this Final Approval Order and Judgment, the Court
 17 reserves continuing and exclusive jurisdiction over the parties to the Settlement, including Defendant
 18 and Settlement Class members, to administer, supervise, construe and enforce the Settlement in
 19 accordance with its terms for the mutual benefit of the parties.

20 21. Judgment will be entered in accordance with the findings and orders made herein. For
 21 all of the reasons set forth above, Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement is
 22 hereby **GRANTED**. This action is dismissed in its entirety, on the merits, with prejudice, and
 23 without leave to amend, and Plaintiffs and Settlement Class members are forever barred and
 24 enjoined from asserting any of the Released Claims in any court or forum whatsoever.

25 22. Under Rules 23, 54, and 58 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court, in the
 26 interests of justice, there being no reason for delay, expressly directs the Clerk of the Court to enter
 27 this Order, and hereby decrees that, upon its entry, it be deemed a final judgment.

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1 **Approved as to Form and Substance:**

2 COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT:

3 DATED: April ____, 2013

4 AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER &
5 FELD LLP

6 By: _____
7 Gary M. McLaughlin, Esq.
8 Attorneys for Defendant
9 MICHAELS STORES, INC.

10 COUNSEL FOR OBJECTORS:

11 DATED: April ____, 2013

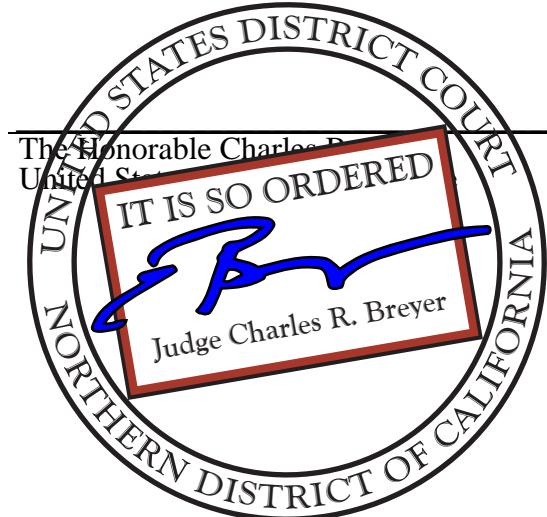
12 LAW OFFICES OF DAVID J.GALLO

13 By: _____
14 David J. Gallo, Esq.
15 Attorney for Objectors

16 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

17 Dated: April 18, 2013

18 By:



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